

PROPOSED USE OF THE PLENARY POWERS TO SUPPRESS THE GENERIC NAME " KOTOCERAS " YABE, 1927, FOR THE PURPOSE OF VALIDATING THE NAMES " KOTOCERAS " KOBAYASHI, 1934 (CLASS CEPHALOPODA, ORDER NAUTILOIDEA) AND " DAMESITES " MATSUMOTO, 1942 (CLASS CEPHALOPODA, ORDER AMMONOIDEA)

By C. W. WRIGHT

(London)

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The purpose of this application is to secure the current usage of the two generic names *Damesites* Matsumoto, 1942 (Class Cephalopoda, Order Ammonoidea) and *Kotoceras* Kobayashi, 1934 (Class Cephalopoda, Order Nautiloidea). Both of these names are threatened by the existence of the name *Kotoceras* Yabe, of which *Damesites* Matsumoto on a strict application of the rules is a junior synonym and *Kotoceras* Kobayashi is a junior homonym.

2. In 1927 Yabe published in lists and without any description a new generic name for a group of Upper Cretaceous ammonites of the family DESMOCERATIDAE, in the following terms :—

(in a list on p. 36) “ ‘ *Desmoceras* ’ (*Kotoceras*, Yabe MS) *damesi* Jimbo
 , , ,) *laeve* Yabe (MS nom.) ”

(in a list on p. 44) “ ‘ *Desmoceras* ’ (*Kotoceras**) *damesi* Jimbo
 , , ,) *laeve** Yabe
 , , ,) *semicostatum** Yabe ”

(on the explanation of plate 7, fig. 9 a, b)

“ *Kotoceras* (gen.nov.) *damesi* ”

(in this work an asterisk denotes a MS name)

3. Since the nominal genus or subgenus *Kotoceras* was published in 1927 and included a valid species (*Desmoceras damesi* Jimbo, 1894 : 172) it is presumably nomenclatorially available, despite the unsatisfactory nature of its establish-

ment and the apparent intention of its author that it should remain a provisional name for the time being.

4. In 1934 Kobayashi (: 391) published as a new nominal genus *Kotoceras*, for a group of Palaeozoic nautiloids, with an originally designated type species, of the new species *K. typicum* Kobayashi (: 392).

5. In 1935 Shimizu, in a work on the Upper Cretaceous cephalopods of Japan, refers frequently to zones named after various species of *Kotoceras* and on page 179 writes :—

Kotoceras damesi (Jimbo). *Kotoceras* was created by YABE with *Desmoceras damesi* Jimbo as its genotype . . .

Shimizu, however, gave no description or differentiation of the genus.

6. In 1942 Matsumoto (: 24), under the impression that *Kotoceras* Yabe was invalid and that consequently *Kotoceras* Kobayashi was valid, established a new nominal genus *Damesites* for the Upper Cretaceous ammonite group in question, type species by original designation *Desmoceras damesi* Jimbo, 1894.

7. The name *Damesites* is now in general use (for example in numerous papers by Matsumoto on Japanese Cretaceous faunas, in the Ammonoidea volume of the *Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology* and in a recent work by Spath (1953 : 42) who refers to " *Damesites* Matsumoto, 1943 (= *Kotoceras*, Shimizu, 1935 non Kobayashi, 1934) "). Undesirable confusion would be caused if the validity of *Kotoceras* Yabe, 1927, set up in such an indeterminate manner, were to be confirmed, with the consequences that *Kotoceras* Kobayashi would have to be renamed and that *Damesites* Matsumoto would fall into synonymy with *Kotoceras* Yabe.

8. No family-group-name problem arises in connection with either of the generic names dealt with in the present application, neither of which has been taken as the base for a family-group name. The genus *Damesites* Matsumoto is currently placed in the family DESMOCERATIDAE, while, as regards *Kotoceras* Kobayashi, it is not at present possible to form a judgment as to its family position.

9. It is recommended therefore that the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature should, in exercise of its Plenary Powers :—

(1) suppress the name *Kotoceras* Yabe, 1927, for purposes of both the Law of Homonymy and the Law of Priority ;

(2) place on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* :—

- (a) *Damesites* Matsumoto, 1942 (gender: masculine) (type species by original designation: *Desmoceras damesi* Jimbo, 1894);
- (b) *Kotoceras* Kobayashi, 1934 (gender: neuter) (type species by original designation: *Kotoceras typicum* Kobayashi, 1934);

(3) place on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* :—

- (a) *damesi* Jimbo, as published in the binominal combination *Desmoceras damesi* (specific name of type species of *Damesites* Matsumoto, 1942);
- (b) *typicum* Kobayashi, 1934, as published in the binominal combination *Kotoceras typicum* (specific name of type species of *Kotoceras* Kobayashi, 1934);

(4) place on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* :—

Kotoceras Yabe, 1927, as suppressed under the Plenary Powers in (1) above.

Reference:

Jimbo, K., 1894: "Beitrage zur Kenntniss der Fauna der Kreideformation von Hokkaido", *Pal. Abhandl.* 6 (N.F.2) : 3, 149—194

Kobayashi, T., 1934: "The Cambro-Ordovician Formations and Faunas of South Chosen", "Palaeontology, Part I. Middle Ordovician Faunas", *J. Fac. Sci., imp. Univ. Tokyo* [2] 3, 329—519

Matsumoto, T., 1942: "A Note on the Japanese Cretaceous Ammonites belonging to the Subfamily Desmoceratinæ", *Proc. imp. Acad. Japan* 18 : 24—29

Shimizu, S., 1935: "The Upper Cretaceous Cephalopods of Japan, Part I", *J. Shanghai Sci. Inst.* (2) 1 : 159—226

Spath, L. F., 1953: "The Upper Cretaceous Cephalopod Fauna of Graham Land", *Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey*, Sci. Rep. 3

Yabe, H., 1927: "Cretaceous Stratigraphy of the Japanese Islands", *Sci. Rep. Tohoku imp. Univ.* (2) 11 : 27—100